ISSN 0041-7904

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 46, No. 37 September 14, 1987

Main Reading Room To Close in December

The historic Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress will be closed for approximately one year for renovation, beginning Wednesday, December 9, at 5 p.m. The reading room will undergo extensive renovation as part of the overall restoration of the Library's Thomas Jefferson and John Adams buildings, under the direction of the Architect of the Capitol. The Library will remain open

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throughout the renovation and all customary service will be provided, although seating in the general reading rooms will be reduced by about 50 percent, and some disruptions in service may occur. The Visitors Gallery overlooking the Main Reading Room will also be closed during the period of renovation.

During the Main Reading Room closing, general reference assistance will be provided in the Social Science and in the Local History and Genealogy reading rooms (Rooms LA 5010 and LJ 244, respectively). General book delivery in the Adams Building will be provided in the newly refurbished fifth floor "center room" (formerly the Science Reading Room), which will also house an expanded Computer Catalog Center, a photocopying center, and other special features. Research Guidance offices will be located in the Adams Building, in the fifth floor elevator lobby, and—in the Jefferson Building—in the foyer of the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room.

To minimize the impact of the loss of more than 200 seats in the Main Reading Room, the Library will add seating in the pavilion adjacent to the Local History and Genealogy Reading Room. To accommodate heavy weekend use of the Library, overflow reading space for use of the general collections will be available in the European and Hispanic reading rooms on Saturdays and in the Manuscript Reading Room on Sundays, when these rooms are ordinarily closed. Because of the reduction in seating, readers are being especially encouraged to make extensive use of their academic and public libraries as a preliminary to coming to the Library of Congress. Interlibrary loan privileges have been extended to Washington, D.C.-area libraries to facilitate the use of the Library's collections elsewhere.

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued weekly by the Information Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies, and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Bruce Tapper, Editor

The number of research facilities available for individual assignment will be sharply reduced while the Main Reading Room is closed. The long-range plan of the renovation and restoration will eventually result in substantial increases in such facilities.

Beginning one month before the December 9 closing, the Main Card Catalog will be moved from its present location to Deck 7, Adams Building, where a reference librarian will be stationed to assist users. When the Main Reading Room reopens, the catalog will be returned to the Jefferson Building.

The Main Reading Room reference collection will be moved to Deck 38, beginning December 9. Selected major reference tools not available in other reading rooms will be transferred to the Social Science and the Local History and Genealogy reading rooms. While Deck 38 will be closed to the public, materials from the collection may be paged for use in either room. City directories and telephone books, now accessible to the public on a deck adjacent to the Main Reading Room, will be moved to Deck 7, Adams Building, with a staff assistant nearby. Telephone reference service will be provided as usual. The Jefferson Congressional Reading Room will be relocated from Alcove 8 of the Main Reading Room to Room LJ 122E during this period.

Reading rooms in the Madison Building and specialized reading rooms in the Adams and Jefferson buildings will not be affected by the Main Reading Room closing, except as described above. They will observe regular hours of public service, as indicated in the Library publication, *Information for Readers*.

Library Cosponsors Publication of Bartlett's Quotations in Braille

The National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS/BPH) of the Library of Congress and the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) announce the availability of the first-ever, mass-produced braille edition of John Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*.

Blind writers, students, and other interested readers now have access to this important reference tool, which lists more than 22,500 quotations, sayings, and writings of English and American authors. A detailed index serves as a key to locating and identifying passages in the book.

Braille production of Bartlett's is a joint effort of NLS/BPH and NFB with the permission of Little, Brown, and Company, the print edition publisher. Gift funds from the estate of Leonard R. Stachura were used to purchase the metal plates needed to produce the 105-volume set.

NLS/BPH has distributed copies for reference use in 43 cooperating braille-lending libraries around the country. NFB is offering the set at cost in soft-bound and hard-bound editions. Individuals and schools or other organizations may purchase the soft-bound edition for $230 and the hard-bound edition for $630 directly from NFB at 1800 Johnson St., Baltimore, MD 21230.

Henriette D. Avram Receives IFLA's Highest Award

Henriette D. Avram, the assistant librarian for processing services, Library of Congress, received the highest

Henriette D. Avram

honor awarded by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). The award, presented to her at IFLA's annual conference in Brighton, England, by IFLA's president, Hans-Peter Geh, commemorates Mrs. Avram's contributions to the federation during the past 20 years.

The citation reads: "There are few individuals who have contributed more to the advancement of international librarianship in all of its many facets than Henriette Davidson Avram. During her 20 years of service to IFLA, her ideology and expertise have helped to enhance IFLA's global reputation. Her foresight in recognizing the importance of the UBC [Universal Bibliographic Control] concept coupled with her active promotion of the goals of International MARC have made it possible to continue efforts for the creation of a worldwide information exchange network. Her unflagging energy and devotion to the library community, and her sharing of knowledge through publications, lectures, and voluntary consultancy services have benefitted both developed and developing nations. Therefore, colleagues gathered at IFLA's 53rd Council meeting in Brighton, United Kingdom, August 1987, join with the Executive Board in expressing their gratitude by electing her Honorary Fellow."

Michael R. Hyman Is Awarded The 1987–88 Jameson Fellowship

Michael R. Hyman, freelance writer and editor for humanities projects and educational textbooks, has been awarded the 1987–88 J. Franklin Jameson Fellowship. He will be in residence at the Library of Congress for several months, beginning this fall, to expand his study of local and state politics in the southern United States in the decade following the end of the Reconstruction Era.

Dr. Hyman received his Ph.D. in history from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, 1986; an M.A. in U.S. history from the City University of New York (CUNY), 1982; and a B.A. in U.S. history from the University of South Carolina, magna cum laude, 1978. He received the Distinguished Scholars' Dissertation Award in the Social Sciences, CUNY Graduate Center, 1985–86; the Phi Beta Kappa Fellowship Award, 1984; the National Society of Colonial Dames Dissertation Fellowship, 1983–84; and the Wade Hampton Award for Excellence in American History, University of South Carolina, 1978. Dr. Hyman is a member of Phi Beta Kappa Association, Southern Historical Association, Organization of American Historians, Five Points Society for American Studies, and the American Historical Association.

From 1981 to 1985 Dr. Hyman taught at Borough of Manhattan Community College, Medgar Evers College, and New York City Technical College. He has produced and directed educational programs for the University of South Carolina educational television network and has served on the research staff of the American Social History Project based at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Dr. Hyman has presented papers at the American Studies Association convention in Memphis, Tenn.,

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Fellowship *(Continued from p. 399)*
October 1981; to the Five Points Society for American Studies, New York City, 1982; at the Southern Historical Association convention in Charleston, S.C., 1983; and in the CUNY Graduate Center Colloquia Series, New York City, 1986.

The Jameson Fellowship, supported jointly by the Library of Congress and the American Historical Association, is awarded annually to support significant scholarly research in the collections of the Library of Congress by young historians. The fellowship is named in honor of J. Franklin Jameson, a founder of the American Historical Association, for many years managing editor of the *American Historical Review,* chief of the Library's Manuscript Division, 1928–37, and first incumbent of the Library's Chair of American History.

THE TOWN CRIER 1787-1987

This is the final article in a series on the convention in 1787 attempting to frame a new constitution for the United States.

The summer of 1787 had been hot and humid. States were having financial problems. Those at the convention realized that the country needed a document that would strengthen the shaky government and one that most states would recognize and support. From May 25 to September 17 the delegates discussed, wrote, and rewrote the articles that were to forge a new nation.

September 17 marked the completion of the task of the delegates to the Constitutional Convention. On that day, in the mid-afternoon, George Washington was the first of 38 members, representing 12 states, to sign the Constitution, which was adopted by the unanimous consent of the States present.

Benjamin Franklin addressed the delegates about the importance of the document that lay before them. He finished by saying, "On the whole, sirs, I cannot help expressing a wish that every member of the convention who may still have objections to it, would with me, on this occasion, doubt a little of his own infallibility—and to make manifest our unanimity, put his name to this instrument."

In spite of his eloquence, Randolph and Mason of Virginia, and Gerry of Massachusetts, did not sign. Rhode Island had refused to participate in any part of the proceedings. The other delegates signed in the traditional order of states, from north to south—New Hampshire to Georgia.

The Constitution was then to be presented to the people of the United States, and its last article provided that it should go into effect when it had been ratified by conventions in nine states. Gouverneur Morris of Pennsylvania had put together in a coherent fashion the resolves that had been fought over and many times rewritten—now neatly arranged under articles and sections.

Major Jackson, the secretary, received his instructions to carry the document the next day to the Confederation Congress in New York, engrossed and signed. Members would each receive a printed copy (made by Claypoole and Dunlap Printers); and at long last the injunction of secrecy was removed.

George Washington was to conclude in his diary, "The business being closed, the Members adjourned to the City Tavern," on Second Street near Walnut, and much favored for large public dinners, "dined together and took a cordial leave of each other; after which I returned to my lodgings, did some business with, and received the papers from the secretary of the Convention, and retired to meditate on the momentous work which had been executed. . . ."

So, the delegates had resolved that "the constitution be laid before the United States in Congress assembled, and that it is the opinion of this convention, that it should afterwards be submitted to a convention of delegates, chosen in each state by the people thereof, under the recommendation of its legislature, for their assent and ratification; and that each convention assenting to, and ratifying the same should give notice thereof to the United States in Congress assembled." There was more, of course, concerning the election of the president, senators, and representatives, and the institutional arrangements through which the government could operate.

As a postscript it should be added that by the summer of 1788 after much discussion and struggle, the Constitution was ratified by 11 states and the new government began operation the next spring. The document is now one of the oldest political constitutions in the world in current operation. Modified in various particulars by 26 amendments, the Constitution, framed by sagacious leaders for a population of less than four million, is still 200 years later the fun-

damental document of a union now embracing more than 230 million people.

Hard-to-Fill Vacancies

Hungarian Cataloger

The Library of Congress has an immediate opening for a descriptive cataloger skilled in reading Hungarian. Master's degree in library science (or comparable library experience in cataloging) and reading knowledge of a second foreign language are also required.

The position has promotion potential to the GS-12 grade level, but will initially be filled at the GS-9 ($22,458-29,199) or GS-11 ($27,172-35,326) grade level depending on applicant qualifications. Interested candidates should submit a Standard Form 171, Application for Federal Employment, to: The Library of Congress, Employment Office, 101 Independence Ave., S.E., Room LM 107, Washington, DC 20540, Vacancy Announcement 70555. Application forms and copies of the vacancy announcement may be obtained by calling (202) 287-5620. The Library of Congress is an equal opportunity employer.

Librarian/CONSER Minimal Level Catalogers

The Library of Congress is seeking qualified applicants for two permanent, part-time serials cataloging (Librarian/CONSER Minimal Level Cataloger) positions. Vacancy Announcement number 70632 advertises these two vacancies at the GS-9 level ($10.76-13.99 per hour) with promotion potential to the GS-11 grade level. Applicants must be willing to work 16-20 hours per week, which can be scheduled between the hours of 4 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

These positions require a graduate degree in library science or a bachelor's degree plus two years of specialized experience, including one year at the GS-7 level in the Federal service or at a comparable level of difficulty outside the Federal service, which demonstrates a knowledge of cataloging rules and the ability to search, organize, and record bibliographic data with accuracy and attention to detail. In addition, applicants must demonstrate a reading knowledge of one modern European language (excluding English) sufficient to perform bibliographic research necessary to cataloging.

To receive a copy of announcement 70632, call (202) 287-5620. Interested applicants should send Standard Form 171 (SF-171), Application for Federal Employment, to the Library of Congress Employment Office, Room LM 107, Washington, DC 20540. No resumes will be accepted in lieu of an SF-171. U.S. citizenship is required. The Library of Congress is an equal opportunity employer.

CDS Publications

Ongoing Publications

The following publications are now available from the Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service, Washington, DC 20541.

Library of Congress Subject Headings in Microform. ISBN 0361-5234, March 1987. Subscription to the 1987 cumulative quarterly is $70 (domestic) or $75 (foreign).

LC Subject Headings Weekly Lists. 1987. Lists 21 through 24. The price is $125 for the 1987 subscription year.

Name Authorities. June 1987. Annual subscription for 1987 is $175 (domestic) or $205 (foreign).

National Union Catalog. Audiovisual Materials. June 1987. Annual subscription for 1987 is $90 (domestic) or $100 (foreign).

National Union Catalog. Books. May 1987. Annual subscription for 1987 is $500 (domestic) or $585 (foreign).

National Union Catalog. Books. June 1987. Annual subscription for 1987 is $500 (domestic) or $585 (foreign).

National Union Catalog. Register of Additional Locations. January-March 1987. Annual subscription for 1987 is $175 (domestic) or $195 (foreign).

STAFF NEWS

To Help Staff Understand FERS, William S. Callanan Appointed to New Post of Retirement Counselor

As a part of the Library's continuing efforts to provide staff with all possible assistance in making a decision whether to join the new Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) or remain in the old Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS), a full-time position of retirement counselor has been established in the Personnel Operations Office. William S. Callanan has been appointed to this position.

Mr. Callanan has had more than 17 years' experience with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in the adjudication of retirement claims and answering retirement inquiries. He holds an A.B. degree from Harvard University and an M.S. from George Washington University.

The retirement counselor will supplement, with in-depth retirement counseling, the assistance provided to staff members by the voluntary keyworkers throughout the Library. For names of these keyworkers and the assistance which they are prepared to provide, please refer to Special Announcement 87-20 dated April 30, 1987, or contact the Personnel Operations Office.

Staff members are also advised that there is pending Social Security legislation in the area of the Public Pension Offset (see Special Announcement 87-33 dated July 1, 1987) and the so-called "windfall provision." If either of these is a consideration in decisions to join FERS or remain in CSRS staff members may wish to defer their election until the later part of the open season, by which time this situation should be clarified.

Staff members are reminded that the following assistance is available as they consider what retirement system is best for them: (1) Volunteer keyworkers who can provide computer analyses and computer printouts on each system on an individual basis. (2) The *FERS Transfer Handbook,* the latest issuance from OPM, a copy of which was provided to each staff member. (3) A videotape on FERS, prepared by the Congressional Research Service, which gives a brief overview of FERS and explains in-depth the computer analyses, may be charged out from the Staff Training and Development Office by contacting Betsy McRae on ext. 76348. (4) A videotape has been made of the seminar on FERS held April 23 in the Coolidge Auditorium and may be shown if there is sufficient demand. An audio cassette is also available. This program explains the history of FERS and presents the differences in the two systems. Staff members should advise the Personnel Operations Office if they are interested. (5) Special Announcement 87-26 dated May 26, 1987, entitled "Requesting Information from the Social Security Administration," provides instructions for obtaining specific Social Security information for those staff members who need such information in making their decision.

Because the decision to stay with CSRS or to transfer to FERS is important, staff members should consider it carefully. It is a one-time decision which cannot be changed; therefore, staff members should make every effort to understand which system is better suited to their personal situations. They need not rush; the period for choosing the new retirement system lasts until December 31.

CSRS and FERS are very different systems, and staff members should not automatically assume that one is better for them than the other. CSRS provides excellent benefits to employees who retire after a long Federal career. FERS offers more portability and flexibility. Both systems allow participation in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), but there are more options for those under FERS.

Once staff members have made their decisions to stay with CSRS or to change to FERS, they should return their completed election forms to the Personnel Operations Office, LM-645. Staff members must turn in their election forms no matter what they decide.

If you elect to transfer to FERS, the transfer will be effective on the first day of the first pay period after you turn in your election form.

If you transfer to FERS, you will have 30 days from the date of your transfer to make a new TSP election. During these 30 days, you may start, change, or stop your TSP contributions. This is an extra opportunity which is in addition to the TSP regular open season.

You should read the *FERS Transfer Handbook* before you make your decision. When you understand the major differences between the two systems and think about which system fits your personal characteristics and career plans better, you probably can make a decision fairly easily. With the *FERS Transfer Handbook* and a computer comparison done by your keyworker, your decision should not be difficult. Those wishing in-depth retirement counseling should contact Mr. Callanan in the Personnel Operations Office, ext. 75630.

STAFF NEWS

Ambassador Wolfowitz Presents Awards to Jakarta Field Staff

Sandra Tjahjana (left), Dorothy Rachmat Lestari, field director E. Gene Smith, Gloria Victorine Kakisina, Soaloon Pardede, Ambassador Wolfowitz, Erna Alim Zubir, Guss A. Kamaril, and Maman Rachmana Achmad.

Seven staff members of the Jakarta field office of the Library Congress were honored at the annual awards ceremony on June 25. United States Ambassador to Indonesia Paul Wolfowitz presented a Meritorious Group award to the staff of the cataloging section—Dorothy Rachmat Lestari, Maman Rachmana Achmad, Soaloon Pardede, Gloria Victorine Kakisina, and Erna Alim Zubir—for sustained achievement in increasing productivity. Guss A. Kamaril, assistant to the field director, and Sandra Tjahjana, of the acquisitions section, were also honored with Meritorious Honor awards.

LCIB Needs Your Story To Show CFC Dollars at Work

Have you or anyone in your family seen the benefits of an agency receiving support from the Combined Federal Campaign? Or have you ever given of your time to consel someone in a hospice bereavement program, or been a buddy to a child in need of companionship, or volunteered in some other capacity for a CFC agency? Perhaps you know of someone who has been sheltered in a home for battered women and children, or who has received a wheelchair, or had glaucoma or some other disease detected because of a program financed by CFC dollars.

If so, the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin (LCIB)* would like to share your story—even if only a brief mention—in upcoming issues publicizing the Combined Federal Campaign and how it works, helping people to help people. Please call LCIB editor Bruce Tapper, ext. 79193, or Gail Fineberg, ext. 79217, by September 25 with your personal story of CFC dollars at work.

Staff Carpool Locator

Established carpool from the Mount Vernon/Fort Hunt area seeks additional driver. On compflex schedule C, arriving at 6:30 a.m. and leaving at 4 p.m. Call Susan Harley, ext. 78278, or Catrine Goska, ext. 75824.

Established carpool seeks a rider/driver along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor areas (Beltway, Langley Park, Takoma Park). On flexitime work hours, about 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call Maryvonne Maurokakis, ext. 76305, or Hugo Christiansen, ext. 75281.

Meetings and Events Around the Library

Tuesday, September 15

☐ In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Week, Marta Istomin, artistic director of the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, will be a guest speaker and introduce Gíbaro de Puerto Rico at 12:45 p.m. in the Coolidge Auditorium of the Thomas Jefferson Building.

Thursday, September 17

☐ Ollantay, a Bolivian band from Arlington, Va., will appear in concert from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Neptune Plaza of the Thomas Jefferson Building. The sixth in a series of free noontime concerts presented by the Library's American Folklife Center, this concert will be part of the Library's celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Week.

☐ The Library of Congress' Town Crier will make his final appearance as part of the Bicentennial celebration of the U.S. Constitution. On this day, 200 years ago, the Constitution was signed by the delegates in Philadelphia. The Town Crier will appear on the front steps of the Thomas Jefferson Building at 11:45 a.m. and in front of the James Madison Memorial Building at noon.

Tuesday, September 22

☐ "Cataloging the Pamphlet Collections in the Rare Book and Special Collections Division," James Gilreath, American history specialist, Rare Book and Special Collections Division; and Catherine Garland, automated operations coordinator, Special Materials Cataloging Division. Special Interest Group on Library Science. LC Professional Association. Room LM 642. **For members and staff.**

Events are open to the public unless otherwise noted.

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INFORMATION BULLETIN
ISSN 0041-7904

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